

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,424,600 to Ishikawa et al. (Ishikawa). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that Ishikawa does not disclose an AC generator for a vehicle, comprising...a brush unit having a brush held in sliding contact with the slip ring...and a slip ring cover for covering the outer periphery of the slip ring, and a suction/discharge port that extends in an axial direction of the rotary shaft.

Rather, Ishikawa merely discloses an air blowing path 8 comprising a through hole having a large radius section 8a and small radius section 8b and connecting the inside with the outside of the bearing cylinder (col. 5, lines 60-65). The bearing cylinder section 32 is provided with an air blowing path 8 in an oblique manner at a boundary portion between the bearing 32a and the shoulder portion 32b (col. 5, lines 47-50, see also Figs. 6 and 11 of Ishikawa). Thus, Ishikawa does not recite a suction/discharge port that extends in an axial direction of the rotary shaft. Further, Ishikawa does not recite a suction/discharge port on a slip ring cover as shown in Figs. 2 and 4 of the application. Accordingly, Ishikawa does not recite all of the features in claims 1, 6, 7 and 10. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,626,720 to Fukasaku et al. (Fukasaku). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that claims 2-5 and 8 are allowable for at least their dependency on claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited therein. For example, Fukasaku does not disclose a slip ring cover that has a first wall portion formed in a shape of an arc in cross section perpendicular to the rotary shaft, and a second wall portion formed inside the first

wall portion, and the suction/discharge port is formed between the first wall portion and the second wall portion.

Rather, Fukasaku discloses a deflecting means 70' for directing induced air toward the armature 61. The deflecting means 70' has a plate plug 74 made of a resilient material having a plurality of through holes and closely fittable to the opening 26, and a tongue-like projection 75 formed integrally with the plate plug 74 on the surface thereof facing the commutator 63 and having a curvature suitably selected to direct air toward the armature 61 (col. 6, lines 13-23). As such, Fukasaku does not disclose a slip ring cover as recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection of claims 2-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of DE 19,950,126 to Ishida et al. (Ishida). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant asserts that claims 9, 11 and 12 are allowable for at least their dependency on claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited therein. For example, neither Ishikawa or Ishida, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an AC generator as in claim 1 wherein the slip ring cover has a side wall portion formed perpendicularly with respect to the direction of the rotary shaft, and at least one of a projection and a groove formed on the side wall portion to divide the area where the slip ring cover abuts the brush holder into a plurality of portions. Further, Ishida does not disclose an extending portion formed on at least one of the end portions of the slip ring cover in an axial direction to extend in a radial direction, and is inserted into a radial groove formed on the brush holder. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application is requested. It is submitted that the claims as presented herein patentably distinguish over the applied references and fully meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1-21 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Appendix
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 28, 2002

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**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 13-21 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) An AC generator for a vehicle, comprising:

a rotor having a rotary shaft, a field winding, and a slip ring provided on one end of the rotary shaft and electrically connected to the field winding;

a brush unit having a brush held in sliding contact with the slip ring, a spring for pressing the brush, a brush holder having a portion for receiving the brush, and a slip ring cover for covering the outer periphery of the slip ring; and

a suction/discharge port ~~formed that extends in a peripheral~~ an axial direction of the ~~slip ring cover~~ rotary shaft.

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